

Application No. 10/798,052
Amendment "A" dated September 6, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed April 4, 2005

REMARKS

The applicant appreciates the time the Examiner has taken to review the foregoing claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application are now respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein. Claims 1-27 are pending, wherein each of the independent claims, and certain of the dependent claims, have been amended.

The present invention relates to a device for grabbing and moving a rail panel. A rail panel is a primary building block of railway systems and typically has a first and a second spaced apart rail, wherein the first rail is parallel to the second rail. A locomotive rides along a series of rail panels when the rail panels are installed and functioning properly. However, repair of such rail panels and initial placement of such rail panels adjacent each other can be complicated and difficult. The present invention provides a device for conveniently grabbing and moving such rail panels, as illustrated in Figure 2 and 8, which illustrate the placement of a grabbing device of the present invention onto a rail panel.

The Wilson reference cited by the Examiner relates to a rail pulling system in which the ends of two rails are pulled together, not to a system for removing an entire rail panel (comprising, e.g., two rails and eighteen railroad ties) from a portion of railroad track. The amendments made herein clarify that the present invention relates to a device for grabbing a rail panel that comprises first and second parallel, spaced apart rails. The frame of the device is configured to be mounted on such a rail panel. One advantage of the grabbing device of the present invention is that it allows a rail panel to be safely, quickly and efficiently grabbed, picked up and moved to another location, as reflected in Figure 8.

The amendments made herein have a basis throughout the original specification and drawings, including Figures 1a-b, 2, 4a-5 and 7-8.

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In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 6th day of September, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



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